THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) At present, Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) are operating 208 LPG distributorships in the State of Assam for distribution of LPG connections.

(b) and (c) At present, there is no registered waiting list with the LPG distributors of OMCs and LPG connections are available on demand in all the existing LPG markets throughout the country, including the State of Assam.

VRS in ONGC and BPCL

1451. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce revised VRS Scheme for ONGC and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the scheme is proposed to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) have submitted proposals for introduction of Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS). The proposed Schemes contain certain deviations from Department of Public Enterprises Guidelines dated 05.05.2000 and are under examination.

Export of LPG

1452. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been exporting LPG to Bangladesh and other countries;

(b) what is the quantum of exports to foreign countries per annum and the amount of foreign exchange earned per annum;

(c) whether it is proposed to double the LPG export to Bangladesh, as reported in the Financial Express of 17th August, 2002; and

(d) whether this will affect home consumption?